

SB 833 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 3/15, 4/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires law enforcement agencies to adopt procedures for referring person who attempted suicide or family member of person who commits suicide to peer support program. Requires hospital that discharges patient following attempted suicide to facilitate referral of patient to peer support program.

FISCAL: May Have Fiscal Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

REVENUE: May Have Revenue Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Difficulty and practices for connecting suicide survivors with support resources
- Necessity of provider-driven follow up care for suicide survivors
- Necessity for fast turnaround in follow up support resources
- Possible amendments and other proposed legislation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

761 suicides occurred in Oregon in 2015, and per the Oregon Health Authority, suicide is the second leading cause of death for people under the age of 35 in Oregon. In 2013, Oregon was in the top 10 US states for suicide incidence, a position it has been in for several decades. Peer support programs use peer-to-peer support as a primary intervention for recent suicide survivors or family members. The "peers" are people that are themselves in recovery from a suicide experience, and have usually received some level of training (although they are not generally professional counselors).

Senate Bill 833 requires law enforcement agencies to adopt policies and procedures for officers to follow when responding to an attempted suicide or a completed suicide. It requires such procedures to include the officer offering to facilitate, and with authorization facilitating, the referral of a person who attempted suicide or family members of a person who committed suicide to a peer support program. The measure also requires hospitals that discharge patients following a suicide attempt to facilitate that patient's referral to a peer support program.